

The Aqeedah of the Pious Predecessors

Translated by
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Taken from the book *Ar-Resaalah*
by
Ibn Abee Zaid Al-Qayrawaane

Introduction

The '*Aqeedah of As-Salaf As-Saalih* is the name we have given to this book. The bases of this 'aqeedah or its text has been taken from *Ar-Resaalah* by Ibn Abee Zaid Al-Qayrawaane, which is a *fiqh* textbook based on the *Maalikee mathhab*. As was the custom of those times in that area the scholars would begin with the chapters of '*aqeedah* first; like saying all of the actions that we plan to explain to you in this book will be based upon having these beliefs.

I chose this '*aqeedah* for our series for many reasons. Among those reasons are Islam came to America by way of North West Africa and Spain, of which our author is from. This '*aqeedah* is brief, comprehensive and easy to understand. Also, I studied this '*aqeedah* with my Sheikh 'Umar ibn Habeeb Fallaatah from Chad, may Allah preserve him, who was also my colleague and a graduate from The College of *Da'wah*, at the Islamic University of *Al-Madeenah*. I have read quite a few explanations of this book, but none more so than the explanation of Al-Ameen Al-Haajj Muhammad Ahmed, a professor of Islamic Studies in the department of The Arabic Language at The Umm Al-Quraa University.

What I've done with this text of Ibn Abee Zaid, may Allah have mercy on him, is translated it, gave brief explanations where needed and added evidences from the Qur'an and Sunnah to support the statements of the *Sheikh*, may Allah have mercy on him. I tried to keep many of the Arabic words in the text by way of transliteration so that the readers could increase their Arabic vocabulary. I then made a table at the back to help the readers better pronounce these Arabic words.

Abu Muslimah

A Brief Biography of the Author¹

He is the *imaam*,² the '*allaamah*,³ the *qudwah*,⁴ the *faqeeh*,⁵ the '*aalim*⁶ of *ahlul-Maghrib*⁷ Abu Muhammad 'Abdullaah ibn Abee Zaid Al-Qayrawanee, Al-Maalikee⁸. And he is called the little (Imam) Maalik.⁹

He was born 310 *hijrah*¹⁰.

Al-Qaadee 'Eyaad said about him: He achieved leadership in the *dunyaa*¹¹ and the *deen*. People traveled to see him from everywhere. His companions were noble and distinguished. His students were many. He is the one who summarized the *Maalikee mathhab*. The different countries are flooded with his books. He learned from the *fuqahaa* of Al-Qayrawaan. He depended upon Abu Bakr ibn Al-Labbaad.

¹ This biography was taken from *Seyaru a'laamin-Nubalaa* and '*Aqaa'idu Aimmatis-Salaf*.

² *Imaam* means a leader on the basis of knowledge. The plural in Arabic is *a-immah*, but we commonly say *imams*.

³ '*Allaamah* means a very knowledgeable scholar.

⁴ *Qudwah* means an example on the basis of knowledge and practice.

⁵ *Fuqahaa* is the plural of *faqeeh*, or one who is a *fiqh* scholar.

⁶ '*Aalim* means scholar.

⁷ *Ahlul-Maghrib* refers to the people of Northwest Africa.

⁸ *Al-Maalikee* is a follower of the *Maalikee mathhab*.

⁹ Referring to *Imaam* Maalik, the *Imaam* of *Daarul-Hijrah*. He is Abu 'Abdillaah Maalik ibn Anas ibn Maalik Al-Asbahee Al-Madane. Ash-Shaafe'ee, may Allaah have mercy on him, said: "When the '*ulamaa* are mentioned, then Maalik is the star." He died 179 *hijrah* at eighty-nine years of age.

¹⁰ *Hijrah* refers to the migration of the Prophet from *Makkah* to *Al-Madeenah*.

¹¹ *Dunyaa* means this world as opposed to the next.

He authored many books including *Ar-Risaalah*,¹² about which it is said that he wrote it when he was seventeen years old.

Along with his magnificence in the *'ilm*¹³ and the *'amal*,¹⁴ he was pious, affectionate and generous. He was benevolent to the students... And he was, may the mercy of Allah be upon him, upon *tareeqatus-salaf*¹⁵ in the *usool*¹⁶. He did not know *kalaam*¹⁷ nor did he use to misinterpret the texts. We ask Allah for the *towfeeq*¹⁸.

He was a brilliant *imaam* in the Islaamic sciences and a follower of the *manhaj*¹⁹ of *As-Salafus-Saalih*.²⁰

He died, may Allah show mercy on him, on the fifteenth of *Sha'baan* in the year of 386 *hijrah*, and was buried in his home in *Al-Qayrawaan*.

¹² This *'aqeedah* is taken from the above-mentioned book.

¹³ *'Ilm* means knowledge.

¹⁴ *'Amal* means action.

¹⁵ *Tareeqatus-salaf* means the way or methodology of the *salaf*.

¹⁶ *Usool* means fundamentals or basics.

¹⁷ *Kalaam* means speaking about the *deen* without knowledge of the Qur'aan and the *Sunnah*.

¹⁸ *Towfeeq* means success given by Allaah.

¹⁹ *Manhaj* means methodology.

²⁰ *As-Salafus-Saalih* means righteous predecessors.

Chapter: What the tongue pronounces and what the heart believes in from the compulsory affairs of the religion.

- 1- From that is the belief of the heart and the pronunciation of the tongue that Allah is One deity, no deity has the right to be worshipped other than Him. And He has nothing similar to Him nor does anything resemble Him. And He has no child, no parent, no marriage companion, mate and no partner.
- 2- There is no beginning to His origin and no end to His existence.
- 3- Those who describe cannot reach the true nature or essence of His description, nor can the thinkers be thoroughly acquainted with Him.
- 4- The thinkers are taught lessons and take warnings from His signs, and they don't contemplate on the nature of His Self **"...and they can't encompass any of His knowledge except that which He wills. His footstool extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is Al-'Alee²¹ Al-'Atheem²²".**
- 5- He is Al-'Aalim²³, Al-Khabeer²⁴, Al-Mudabbir²⁵, Al-Qadeer²⁶, As-Samee'a²⁷, Al-Baseer²⁸, Al-'Alee, Al-Kabeer²⁹.

²¹ *Al-'Alee* is a beautiful name of Allaah that means The Most High.

²² *Al-'Atheem* is a beautiful name of Allaah that means The Supreme.

²³ *Al-'Aalim* is a beautiful name of Allaah that means The All-Knower.

²⁴ *Al-Khabeer* is a beautiful name of Allaah that means The Aware.

²⁵ *Al-Mudabbir* is a beautiful name of Allaah that means it means The Controller of all things.

- 6- And He Himself *istawaa*³⁰ above His magnificent throne, and He is everywhere with His knowledge. He created man and He knows what man's own self whispers to him and He is nearer to him than his juglar vein.³¹ **"And not a leaf falls except that He knows it. And there is not a grain in the darkness of the earth nor anything fresh or dry except that it is written in a Clear Book"**³².³³ He is high above the throne, He owns the sovereignty and He has *al-esmaa'ul-husnaa* and *as-sefaatul-'ulaa*³⁴.
- 7- He remains in His existence with all of His names, characteristics and attributes. High above is He from having any of His characteristics being created or His names being new.
- 8- He spoke to Moosaa with His speech that is a characteristic of Him; not a creation of His creation.
- 9- He displayed Himself to the mountain and it became demolished by His greatness.

²⁶ *Al-Qadeer* is a beautiful name of Allaah that means The Powerful.

²⁷ *As-Samee'a* is a beautiful name of Allaah that means The Hearer.

²⁸ *Al-Baseer* is a beautiful name of Allaah that means The Seer.

²⁹ *Al-Kabeer* is a beautiful name of Allaah that means The Great.

³⁰ *Istawaa* means to rise high above.

³¹ See *Soorah Qaaf* 50:16

³² A Clear Book here refers to the *Lowh Al-Mahfooth*.

³³ *Soorah Al-An'aam* 6:59

³⁴ *Al-Esmaa'ul-Husnaa* and *As-Sefaatul-'Ulaa* means the most beautiful names and the most lofty characteristics and attributes.

- 10- The Qur'an is the speech of Allah, it is not created so as to perish, and it is not a characteristic of something created so as to come to an end.
- 11- And belief in *qadr*³⁵ the good of it and the bad of it, the sweet of it and the sour of it, all of it has been predetermined by Allah our Lord. The decree of affairs is in His hand and their coming into existence is by His *qadaa*³⁶. He knows everything before its existence. Therefore everything is in accordance with His *qadr*. There is not a saying or action from His servants except that He has already predetermined it and He had already had knowledge of it. "Should He not know what He created? And He is Al-Lateef³⁷, Al-Khabeer"³⁸.
- 12- He leads astray whomever He wills, thus leaving him without help, by His justice. And He guides whomever He wills, thereby making him successful, by His generosity. Therefore, His assistance facilitates everyone to that which has already been predetermined from His knowledge. And He has already predetermined the happy and the wretched.
- 13- He is above having something in His kingdom or sovereignty that He doesn't want, or of having someone being independent without need of Him. He is Al-Khaaliq³⁹ of everything. Isn't He the Lord of the servants, the Rabb⁴⁰ of their deeds and Al-Muqaddir⁴¹ of their movements and their appointed times?

³⁵ *Qadr* means the divine decree or predestination.

³⁶ *Qadaa* means execution or the bringing into existence of the *qadr*.

³⁷ *Al-Lateef* is a beautiful name of Allaah that means The Subtle.

³⁸ *Soorah Al-Mulk* 67:14

³⁹ *Al-Khaaliq* is a beautiful name of Allaah that means The Creator.

⁴⁰ *Rabb* means Lord, and here it refers to Allaah.

⁴¹ *Al-Muqaddir* is a beautiful name of Allaah that means The Preterminer.

- 14- He is Al-Baa'ith⁴² of messengers to their people as a proof against them. Then He finalized and put an end to the inspiring of revelation, the giving of warnings and the sending of prophets, by sending Muhammad, His prophet ﷺ. Consequently He made him the last of the messengers, **“a bearer of glad tidings and a Warner and as one who invites to Allah by His permission and as a clear light”**⁴³. And He revealed His wise book to him ﷺ.
- 15- He prescribed His straight upright deen and He guided to *as-siraatul-mustaqeem*⁴⁴.
- 16- *As-saa'ah*⁴⁵ is coming, no doubt about it. And Allah is certainly going to resurrect the dead; just as He brought you into existence the first time, so will you return.⁴⁶
- 17- Allah has multiplied the good deeds of His believing servants, He has forgiven them of their major sins by their repentance, and He has pardoned their minor sins because of their staying away from the major sins. And He has left the major sins of those who have not repented under His will **“Verily Allah doesn't forgive the ascribing partners to Him, but He forgives everything other than that to whoever He pleases”**⁴⁷.

⁴² *Al-Baa'ith* is a beautiful name of Allaah that means The Dispatcher.

⁴³ Soorah Al'Ahzaab 33:45-46

⁴⁴ *As-Siraatul-Mustaqeem* means the straight path.

⁴⁵ *As-Saa'ah* means The Last Hour.

⁴⁶ See Soorah Al-A'raaf 7:29

⁴⁷ Soorah An-Nesaa 4:48 and 4:116

- 18- And whomever Allah punishes in His fire He takes him out of it by his *eemaan*, then he enters him into His *jannah*. **“So whoever does good equal to the weight of an atom, will see it”**⁴⁸.
- 19- And he will be taken out of the fire by the *shafaa’ah*⁴⁹ of the Prophet; whomever he intercedes for from among the people of *kabaa’ir*⁵⁰ and died without repenting from them, from among his ummah.
- 20- And Allah Ta’aalaa⁵¹ has created *jannah* and has made it an everlasting home for His *owleyaa*⁵². And He has honored them with His generosity by allowing them to look at His distinguished face. It is the same *jannah* that His prophet and His *khaleefah*⁵³ Aadam descended from to the earth, just as it has been preordained with His knowledge of what has been decreed.
- 21- And He created the fire and has made it an everlasting home for those who disbelieve in Him, and those who deny His signs, His books, and His messengers. And He has prevented them from looking at Him.
- 22- And Allah *Tabaaraka wa Ta’aalaa* will come on the *yowmul-qeyaamah*⁵⁴ with the angels row by row.⁵⁵

⁴⁸ Soorah Az-Zalzalah 99:7

⁴⁹ *Shafaa’ah* means intercession.

⁵⁰ *Kabaa’ir* means major sins.

⁵¹ *Ta’aalaa* is a lofty characteristic of Allaah that means The Glorified.

⁵² *Owleyaa* means friends.

⁵³ *Khaleefah* here means one who will establish and execute Allaah’s verdicts and commandments.

⁵⁴ *Yowmul-Qeyaamah* means The Day of Resurrection.

- 23- And the *meezaan*⁵⁶ will be placed to weigh the servants' deeds "Then those whose scales are heavy with good deeds these, they are the successful"⁵⁷ And they will be given the book of their deeds; then as for him who will be given his book in his right hand, then he will surely receive an easy reckoning. And whoever is given his book behind his back, then they will enter the blazing flame.⁵⁸
- 24- And the *seraat*⁵⁹ is the truth. The servants cross over it according to their deeds. So those who are rescued vary in their speed of deliverance from the fire of *jahannam*⁶⁰ while crossing over the *seraat*. And there are people who will have their deeds ruin them by causing them to fall into the fire.
- 25- And belief in the *howd*⁶¹ of the Messenger of Allah that will be presented to his *ummah*. Whoever drinks from it will never ever be thirsty again. Whoever alters, changes or modifies this deen in any way whatsoever will be chased away from the *howd*.
- 26- And *eemaan*⁶² is a statement on the tongue, *ikhlaas*⁶³ in the heart, and action with the body parts. *Eemaan* increases with the

⁵⁵ See Soorah Al-Fajr 89:22

⁵⁶ *Meezaan* means scale.

⁵⁷ Soorah Al-Mu'minoon 23:102.

⁵⁸ See Soorah Al-Inshiqaaq 84:7,8,10 & 12

⁵⁹ *Seraat* means the bridge over the hell fire.

⁶⁰ *Jahannam* is one of the names of the hell fire.

⁶¹ The *howd* is the fountain, pool or body of water.

⁶² *Eemaan* means faith or belief.

⁶³ *Ikhlaas* means sincere devotion.

increase of deeds and it decreases with the decrease in deeds. Therefore, its increase or decrease is according to ones deeds. And the statement of *eemaan*. And the statement of *eemaan* cannot be complete without action, and a statement and an action cannot be complete without intentions, and a statement, an action and intentions cannot be complete without being in accordance with the Sunnah.

27- And no one from *ahlul-qiblah*⁶⁴ becomes a *kaafir*⁶⁵ because of a sin committed.

28- And the *shuhadaa*⁶⁶ are alive with their Lord, being provided for

29- And the souls of *Ahlus-sa'aadah*⁶⁷ are smoothly surviving until the day when they are resurrected. And the souls of *ahlush-shaqaawah*⁶⁸ are being punished until *yowmud-deen*⁶⁹.

30- And the believers will be tested in their graves, and they will be questioned. **“Allah will keep those who believe firm with the firm word”**⁷⁰ in this life and in the hereafter”.⁷¹

⁶⁴ *Ahlul-Qiblah* are the people of the *qiblah* or the Muslims.

⁶⁵ *Kaafir* is anyone who does not believe in Islaam.

⁶⁶ *Shuhadaa* is the plural of *shaheed*, which means martyr.

⁶⁷ *Ahlus-Sa'aadah* are the people of happiness, which refers to the inhabitants of *jannah*, may Allaah make us from amongst them.

⁶⁸ *Ahlush-Shaqaawah* are the people of wretchedness, which refers to the companions of the fire, may Allaah save us from being amongst them.

⁶⁹ *Yowmud-Deen* is The Day of Recompense.

⁷⁰ The firm word here refers to the statement: No god has the right to be worshipped except Allaah.

- 31- And all of the servants have angels on them writing down their deeds. And none of that escapes the knowledge of their Lord.
- 32- And the *malakul-mowt*⁷² takes the souls by the permission of their Lord.
- 33- And the best of generations are those that saw the Messenger of Allah and believed in him, then those that followed them.
- 34- And the best among the *sahaabah*⁷³ are the *Al-Kulafaa Ar-Raashidoon Al-Mahdeyyoon*⁷⁴ Abu Bakr then 'Umar then 'Uthmaan then 'Alee.
- 35- And not anyone of the *sahaabah* of the Messenger ﷺ should be mentioned except in the best possible manner. And restraint is practiced concerning what broke out between them. And they have more right than anyone that excuses should be made for what they did. And they should be thought about, considered and looked at with the finest of thoughts.
- 36- And *taa'ah*⁷⁵ is for the *imaams*⁷⁶ of the Muslims who are in control of the affairs and their '*ulamaa*⁷⁷.

⁷¹ Soorah Ibraaheem 14:27

⁷² *Malakul-Mowt* is The Angel of Death.

⁷³ *Sahaabah* are the Companions of the Messenger ﷺ.

⁷⁴ *Al-Kulafaa Ar-Raashidoon Al-Mahdeyyoon* are the Rightly Guided *Kaleefahs*.

⁷⁵ *Taa'ah* means obedience.

⁷⁶ *Imaams* here means leaders.

- 37- And following As-Salafus-Saalih and imitating them in what they left behind and seeking forgiveness for them.
- 38- And the abandonment of *meraa*⁷⁸ and *jedaal*⁷⁹ in the deen.
- 39- And the abandonment of every *muhdathah*⁸⁰ that the innovators invent.

And may the mercy of Allah and peace be upon our *seyyed*⁸¹ Muhammad, His prophet, and on his family, wives and his descendents.

The end.

⁷⁷ 'Ulamaa means scholars or people of knowledge.

⁷⁸ *Meraa* means arguing without evidence.

⁷⁹ *Jedaal* means debating without evidence.

⁸⁰ *Muhdathah* means bid'ah and bid'ah means innovation in the deen.

⁸¹ *Seyyed* means master.